

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the comments set forth fully below. Claims 14-16 were pending. Within the Office Action, Claims 14-16 have been rejected. By the above amendment, Claim 14 has been amended and Claim 16 has been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 14 and 15 are now pending.

Election/Restriction

Within the Office Action, the Claims 1-16 have been subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. The Restriction Requirement indicates that Group I claims (drawn to a combination of a handle and a wafer box) and Group II claims (drawn to the subcombination of a handle) are directed to distinct inventions. The Applicants note that Group I claims include Claims 1-13 and Group II claims include Claims 14-16. The Applicants elect, without traverse, Group II including Claims 14-16 for continued prosecution. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to file a divisional application directed toward the non-elected group.

Objections To The Drawings

Within the Office Action, the drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "36" and "37" have both been used to designate the positioning portion, as well as the urging portion. As described within the specification, "The positioning portion 36 has the function to locate the connecting component 35 on the wafer box main body 31. The urging portion 37 urges against the wafer box main body 31." [Present Specification, page 6, line 25 - page 7, line 2] By the above amendment, Figure 6 has been amended to be consistent with the other drawings and show the positioning portion 36 locating the connecting component on the wafer box and the urging portion 37 urging against the wafer box main body 31.

In addition, it is alleged within the Office Action that after the handle is rotated to the position shown in Figure 5, one of the previously designed elements 36 is designated 37. It is believed that this allegation might result from a misunderstanding, since the positions of the reference characters 36 and 37 are correct in Figure 5. As discussed above, Figure 6 has been

amended to be consistent with the other drawings and show the positioning portion 36 locating the connecting component on the wafer box and the urging portion 37 urging against the wafer box main body 31.

As for the objection that the element 45 designated in the specification as the gap-connecting portion is not shown in the drawings, the applicants respectfully disagree. The reference number 45 is included within the original Figure 4.

Claim Objections

Within the Office Action, Claim 14 has been objected to because of certain informalities. By the above amendment, Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 16. Moreover, Claim 14 has also been amended to include “means for” elements, according to the guidelines of MPEP § 2181, and as suggested within the Office Action. Further, within the Office Action, it is suggested that an intended use limitation in line two of Claim 14 would add clarity. By the above amendment, Claim 14 has been so amended to include the intended use limitation as suggested by the Examiner. Still further, it is suggested within the Office Action that a “for” should be included before “being” in line 7 of Claim 14. By the above amendment, this amendment has been made per the Examiner’s suggestion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 14-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,010,008 to Nyseth (hereinafter referred to as “Nyseth”). It is indicated within the Office Action that Claim 14 would be allowable if it is rewritten to include the “urging portion” as well as to include the engaging portion and the positioning portion, as are already set forth. By the above amendment, Claim 14 has been amended to include a “means for urging said object.” Accordingly, as indicated within the Office Action, the independent Claim 14 is allowable over the teachings of Nyseth.

Claim 15 is dependent on the independent Claim 14. As discussed above, the independent Claim 14 is allowable over the teachings of Nyseth. Accordingly, Claim 15 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: July 29, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 7-29-05 By: Tim D. Ramm

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 6. The replacement sheet replaces the original sheet including Figure 6. In Figure 6, the reference characters 36 and 37 have been corrected.



Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig. 6

